

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church

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August 22, 2021 ~ Indoor Worship

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Just a few notes to keep in mind:

- ◆ It is mandatory that ALL wear a mask, per recent decision from Session. Please see a Session member with questions.
- ◆ For the immediate future we will not have congregational singing indoors.

GATHERING

WELCOME

Bob Shepard

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Shepard

One: Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones

All: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow

Where there was no way

All: All: God leads us in a new way

Where there was no mercy

All: God surprises us with fresh mercy

Where there was weeping

All: God invites us to step into a new dance.

Let us worship our God.

Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, the UCC national offices

OPENING SONG "Here in This Place" (Gather Us In) purple bk #401, verses 1, 2, & 4

CALL OF RECONCILIATION

Bob Shepard

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

Through Christ, life has been given to us as a new gift this day, therefore, let us bring free and joyful hearts before God. Friends, by the grace of God, know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

HEARING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Bob Shepard

Holy God, Author of all wisdom, we come to your Word with gratitude and humility. Grant us openness of mind to listen with new understanding. Grant us sensitivity of heart to receive what we hear. Grant us willingness of spirit to live our response daily. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

Bob Shepard

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

SERMON

"Coming Up Short"

Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

RESPONDING

SERMON RESPONSE

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" with Above All Else CCLI #7029505

CALL TO OFFERING

Bob Shepard

OFFERTORY "Instrument of Peace" by Paul Colman and Phil Madeira
CCLI #4090355

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bob Shepard

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING SONG "Guide My Feet" Purple Hymnal #741, verses 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

Announcements

From the Session: Due to the increase in case counts related to the delta variant of COVID and per CDC guidelines, for now, the Session is requiring that masks be worn for all indoor church activities (worship, M in M, Sunday School, etc) regardless of vaccination status; unvaccinated individuals continue to be required to wear masks indoors. This is effective August 15, and the decision will be re-evaluated as the transmission rates of the delta variant of COVID change. Thank you for your cooperation, and for your care for our community, as we continue to deal with this pandemic

News from Christian Education Committee:

- Sunday School classes begin September 19th, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. The parents can enjoy coffee and visiting before church while the children are in class. We will bring the children back to the sanctuary for the Children's sermon at 10:15 and then the children can sit with their parents during the rest of the service. There will be a PreK - 2nd grade class and a 3rd-5th grade class
- M&M begins October 6 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. We are looking into the possibility of having part of the program on zoom for those kids who cannot attend.

Volunteers Needed:

...We need one person each Sunday to serve as a Greeter and one person each Sunday to serve as an Usher for Sunday worship. Please let Becky Brandt know when you are available to help and she will build a calendar. Call/text Becky at (218)779-0427 or email her at thebrandtfam@gmail.com.

School Supplies Drive for Highland Elementary school

Please donate any of these school supplies from the following list. Please drop them off at church today or Sunday, August 29th. If you would like to donate money instead, please make out checks to Spirit of Life and write School supplies in the memo line. If there are any left over items, they will be donated to our Sunday School program. We also need 8-10 single hole, hole punchers for Sunday School. Any questions, please contact Karen Johnson, Thanks.

25 Composition notebook: wide ruled (red, green and blue)	
17 Colored pencils (12 count set)	20 Crayons (24 pack)
50 Folders; Regular 2 Pocket	96 Glue (stick)
6 Glue (bottle)	10 Highlighter (wide Tip)
10 Highlighter (narrow tip)	20 Markers (wide tip: 8 or 10 count set)
16 Marker (narrow tip: set)	40 Markers: dry erase

20 Pencil #2	10 School Box
20 Scissors	
25 Post Its	10 Watercolor paints
10 Scotch tape	20 Black Flair pens

GriefShare

Many of us have suffered the loss of a loved one, someone dear to our hearts who has been an important part in our lives. The grief that we encounter can be overwhelming at times and causes us to reach out for help. *Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church* is initiating a 13 session Christ centered program produced by a network of thousands of grief recovery groups meeting around the world. The group will meet weekly on Thursday evenings at 6:16. With GriefShare you will learn how to walk the journey of grief and be supported on the way. It is a place where grieving people find healing and hope. We will begin the series on **Thursday evening, September 9, at 6:16 to 8:16 pm** in person in the Sanctuary of Spirit of Life Church. (We will skip the week of Thanksgiving and then restart the weekly Thursday series on December 2.) This will be the second series that we have offered with past participants recommending that the program be repeated. Please contact Bob Shepard at shepardspairie@gmail.com or Jaqui Hicks at jahutchinson23@gmail.com or the church office if you have questions or if you or someone you know would like to participate.

The Presbytery is offering the **Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage** again this fall, and it's open to anyone with an interest. Several members of Spirit of Life, including Pastor Rob and Clerk of Session Denise Lewis, participated. You can contact them directly with questions that are not answered online (see link below).

This pilgrimage, while it *is* a meaningful time commitment, is also a chance to integrate action with reflection, and develop spiritual capacities for anti-racist action that will serve you your whole life long.

We're asking you to take **30 minutes a week** from September through May (with breaks for Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter) to practice sustained, habitual engagement with anti-racist practice. There will be five required small group Zoom gatherings, and extra opportunities to gather as a church (in-person or virtually as your church practice and policies allow) or for other special events throughout the year.

- Learn some basics about this opportunity, you can click on the page introducing our 2020-21 journey (please ignore the exact dates, as they refer to LAST year) Understand more about the basics of what a "pilgrimage" means in the context of anti-racism and in a virtual setting <https://files.constantcontact.com/17207f49001/36a7f98e-e742-44f5-af3b-038e013e4a83.pdf?rdr=true>
To register, use this link: <https://forms.gle/V1dmgfeDKvv5soVh6>